

Infant Jesus Parish - Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 2022-10-11

Attendees:

- Fr. Joe Pham
- Fr. Al Mungujakisa
- Sr. Michele Degregorio
- Deacon Joe Farro
- Deacon Frank Dunleavy
- Denise Dietrich
- Steve Graham
- Frank Gramenzi
- Pedro Guzman
- Ellie Kandle
- Richard Macdonald
- Al Pisanelli
- Lisa Rice

Agenda- October 11, 2022 @ 7:00 PM

1. Opening prayer – Father Joe
2. Introduction and welcome new members
3. Meeting: 3 to 4 times a year
4. Review the purpose and role of the Parish Pastoral Council.
 - a. President, Vice President and Secretary (recorder) needed
5. Review the letter and decree issued by Bishop Sullivan regarding the Mass schedule of parishes in the diocese.
6. Celebration of Eucharistic Revival
7. Closing prayer
8. Schedule for next meeting (date and time)

Meeting Discussion

- The meeting started at 7:06 PM with Father Joe leading us in prayer.
- Since the Parish Pastoral Council President Steve Graham could not attend the meeting Father Joe facilitated the meeting. Note: Steve Graham was able to join the meeting later.
- Father Joe welcomed everyone present and asked all members present to briefly introduce themselves.
 - New members are:
 - Frank Gramenzi
 - Absent today as he had to isolate due to illness
 - Pedro Guzman
 - Ellie Kandle
 - Richard Macdonald
- **The Purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council**

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- Reviewed the document from the code of Canon Law titled “The purpose of Parish Pastoral Council” (document attached).
 - Father Al added that the role of the parish council is to be the eyes and ears of the pastor. He cannot be everywhere.
 - Father Joe indicated that he usually goes with what the majority of the council agrees to.
- Father Joe Pham informed the council that the current President Steve Graham has indicated that he would like to step down from the role.
 - **New appointments are needed for:**
 - President - facilitates the meeting.
 - Vice President - assists the President and steps in for him if he is unable to attend the meeting.
 - Secretary - essentially the recorder and text the meeting minutes.
 - Appointments will be made at the next meeting.
- **Review of letter and decree issued by Bishop Sullivan regarding the Mass schedule of parishes in the diocese (letter and decree attached)**
 - Letter and decree from Bishop dated August 8, 2022
 - Summary of the decree
 - Weekend Mass Schedule:
 - Only one vigil Mass per Parish
 - In parishes with only one Priest:
 - Only two Masses on Sunday
 - For each additional full-time Priest at the parish
 - One additional Mass on Sunday
 - Must be implemented by July 1, 2023
 - Weekday Mass Schedule
 - Priest have scheduled off day.
 - Mass may be canceled on the Priest’s off day.
 - Eucharistic services may not substitute the Mass.
 - Mass attendees should be encouraged to visit a neighboring parish for Mass.
 - Impact of the decree to Infant Jesus Parish
 - Current Weekend Mass Schedule:
 - Saturday (Vigil) schedule:
 - 4:00 PM at St. Margaret Church
 - 6:00 PM at St. John Vianney Church
 - Sunday schedule:
 - 8:30 AM at St. Margaret Church
 - 10:00 AM at St. Margaret Church
 - 11:00 AM at St. John Vianney Church
 - 4:00 PM at St. Margaret Church
 - The current schedule includes:
 - Two Vigil Masses (on Saturday)
 - Four Masses on Sunday

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- In order to be in conformance with the decree:
 - One Vigil Mass would need to be removed.
 - One Sunday Mass would need to be removed.
- Father Joe:
 - We definitely need to cancel one Vigil Mass
 - He will attempt to maintain all four Sunday Masses
- Discussion on Vigil Masses:
 - Need to look at attendance to determine which Mass will be removed.
 - Get Mass attendance information from Sharon for the past few months.
- Discussion on Sunday Masses
 - Cannot have overlapping Mass at both churches in case we only have one Priest
 - St. John Vianney
 - 11:30 AM is not the optimal time for the Mass. After the merger, it was the best available time since Saint Margaret Masses were held earlier.
 - Prior to the merger, they used to be a good attendance at 8:30 AM.
 - Consider moving the Mass to 8: 00 AM or 8:30 AM
 - We will conducted an in pew survey, only at St. John Vianney to get input for the optimal time for the Mass
 - Need to design a card for the in pew survey.
 - St. Margaret Church
 - To avoid an overlap in Mass with St. John Vianney, consider the follow and times for Mass
 - 9:30 AM
 - Will give the priest time to travel back from St. John Vianney if he is the only one present
 - 11:00 AM
 - 4:00 PM
 - These are preliminary discussions and need to be finalized
- **Celebration of Eucharistic Revival**
 - Will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Next meeting:
 - It was decided that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center**
- Father Al led us in closing prayer and
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM

The Purpose of Parish Pastoral Council

- 1983 Code of Canon Law Can. #536-

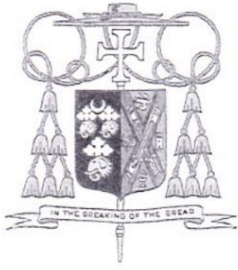
1. If the diocesan Bishop judges it opportune after he has heard the presbyteral council, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity.

2- A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by norms established by the diocesan bishop.

The Parish Pastoral Council participates in the responsibility for pastoral ministry of the parish. Its purpose and goals are extensive. It should research the needs, ideas, hopes, life and activity of the people of God, so that the whole parish community can effectively carry out the mission of the parish and fully participate in the ongoing conversion that is central to its life. The Parish Pastoral Council should constantly evaluate the parish in its conformity to the Gospel and those constitutive elements of the Gospel that call for understanding the implications of justice. In this sense, the parish Pastoral Council shares in the decision making process which assists the pastor and trustees in carrying out the leadership role that is theirs within the Parish.

The Parish Pastoral Council assist the pastor and trustees in accomplishing these goals by offering counsel to them. This consultative responsibility is rooted in the obligation of all the baptized to pursue the common good of the Church. It is present in the emerging consensus flowing from the combined gifts and multiple experiences of the people of God.

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Office of the Bishop *Diocese of Camden*

August 8, 2022

Dear Monsignor/Father:

Over the past few years a frequent topic of discussion at Presbyteral Council meetings has been the need to reduce the number of Masses celebrated in parishes across the diocese. I recognize just how difficult such an initiative is at the local level where pastors fear being blamed for changes to the parish Mass schedule. Therefore, given the following rationale, I am promulgating the attached decree that mandates adjustments to parish Mass schedules no later than July 1, 2023.

In explaining this mandate, I first wish to address the concern I have of “quantity” over “quality”. In some parishes, Masses are multiplied for the convenience of the lay faithful who attend in small numbers compared to the size of the church building. This requires spreading precious parish resources for good liturgy (both human and financial) across the entire schedule. Fewer Masses with increased attendance will allow pastors to devote the necessary resources to liturgical music, art and environment, and other components that make a parish liturgy the rich “source and summit” of Christian life that is intended to be.

Much sooner than later, most of our parishes will be served by one priest. We are currently blessed to have healthy retired priests who are faithful in assisting parishes with Sunday Masses. However, their numbers are dwindling as is the overall number of priests serving in the Diocese of Camden. All of our priests continue to advance in years. Prayers for vocations and an active ministry in every parish to raise up vocations are absolutely necessary but it takes nearly a decade for a vocation to lead to ordination. As such, we will have an unavoidable gap that requires a reduction in parish Mass schedules.

At the same time, parishes need to cooperate with one another for the benefit of all. Gone are the days when we can simply be parochial, looking only at the needs of our own people. I say this because even daily Masses need adjustments. It makes no sense for adjacent parishes to each have multiple daily Masses. Given the proximity of our parishes and the fact that most people drive, the options available for participating at Mass are plenty. It is also inappropriate for parishes to conduct Eucharistic Services in the absence of a priest on weekdays. Those who wish to receive Holy Communion should participate at Mass in a neighboring parish. It is perfectly legitimate for Mass not be celebrated on a given day if the pastor is taking his day off.

Pastors are to implement the norms contained in the attached decree by July 1, 2023. It is imperative, therefore, that pastors begin to address the proscribed reduction to the parish Mass schedules immediately.

With prayerful best wishes for you and your efforts, I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D.
Bishop of Camden

631 Market Street, Camden NJ 08102



DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATA
EPISCOPUS CAMDENSIS

DECREE REGARDING PARISH MASS SCHEDULES IN THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

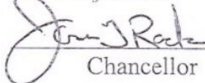
In order to better address the declining number of priests in the presbyterate of the Diocese of Camden, along with the decline in Mass attendance, and having taken counsel with both the Presbyteral Council and the Vicars Forane, in exercising vigilance over the celebration of the sacraments, in accord with canon 392 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, in order that the pastoral effort regarding the celebration of Mass may be more effective for the building up of the ecclesiastical community and so as to not overburden the priests of the diocese, allowing them to more adequately fulfill their ministry (cf. *Eucharisticum mysterium*, 25), I hereby decree the following in regards to Mass schedules in the Diocese of Camden:

1. A parish may have one Saturday evening Mass.
2. A parish may have two Sunday Masses if there is only one full-time priest assigned to the parish.
3. A parish may have one additional Mass on Sunday per full-time or part-time priest assigned to the parish as long as those Masses have an attendance of at least 60% of the capacity of the church building. A change in the Mass schedule will need to be made when staffing changes at the parish.
4. Parishes that serve the Latino community should incorporate the Mass celebrated in the Spanish language into the parish Mass schedule in accord with the guidelines above.
5. Parishes in the shore region of the diocese will need to plan, on an annual basis, the number of Masses they require and are able to cover. By May 1st of each year, pastors of shore parishes are to file their summer Mass schedule and coverage plan with the Office of the Chancellor.
6. In parishes with only one priest; the parish weekday Mass schedules may reflect the pastor's day off by having no Mass scheduled on that day. In addition, when the pastor is on vacation, the weekday Masses may be suspended. Eucharistic services are NOT TO BE CONDUCTED on these occasions; the faithful are to be provided with nearby parish Mass schedules so that they may participate in Mass.

This decree takes effect on July 1, 2023.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Camden on this the 8th day of August, 2022.

in cuius fidem...


Chancellor




Bishop of Camden

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

In 2000, the Bishops of the United States approved plans for a National Eucharistic Revival with the mission of “renewing the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.” The theme of the Revival is: “My Flesh for the life of the World”. This three-year effort will have three phases: (1) Diocesan, (2) Parish, and (3) National.

The Diocesan Phase has already begun on June 19, 2022, the Feast of Corpus Christi. The Parish Phase of the Eucharistic Revival will begin on Corpus Christi Sunday June 11, 2023.

Our parish will begin a year-long celebration of the Eucharistic Revival with block procession of the Holy Eucharist immediately after the 10:00 am Mass on Corpus Christi Sunday June 11, 2023.

Throughout the year of the Eucharistic Revival, we will continue to plan for activities and events which concentrate on the Holy Eucharist:

- A-Reflecting upon the Eucharist as the Paschal Mystery of Christ (His suffering, death, and resurrection).
- B-Christ is truly, really, and substantially present in the Eucharistic species.
- C-Christ is alive and at work in His Mystical Body, the Church.
- D-Full consciousness and active participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- E- The Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Mass is the source and culmination of the whole Christian life.

Let us take advantage of this Eucharistic Revival to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the Mass. Let us make time to participate in all Eucharistic events, lectures, and Eucharistic Adoration so that our intimate relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist would be strengthened. “Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood will have life eternal”.